

REMARKS

Claims 17-19 were originally pending and under consideration. By means of the present amendment, claim 18 has been canceled and its limitations incorporated in claims 17 and 19. No new matter has been added.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 17 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ohsaki et al. (US 5,556,723). Claim 18 was deemed allowable if rewritten in independent form. Although Applicants disagree, in order to advance prosecution claim 18 has been canceled and its limitations incorporated into claims 17 and 19.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully requests the issuance of a Notice of Allowance. If the Examiner desires, Applicant welcomes a telephone interview to expedite prosecution and is available at the telephone number below. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to deduct any deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-3140.

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Respectfully submitted,



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